



Conservation Successes – September 2004

Dallas Dedicates Sycamore-Dixon Nature Trail Proud Youth Celebrate Their Active Participation

Dallas, TX (August 28, 2004) – Not even gray skies and rain showers could dampen the enthusiasm of young and old attending the dedication of the Sycamore-Dixon Nature Trail. The ½ mile trail, which leads visitors from the Larry Johnson Recreation Center to the edge of White Rock Creek, meanders through groves of ancient sycamore, pecan, willow, walnut, and ash. For more than a year, the youth at the recreation center learned trail building skills and helped develop the trail. American Youthworks, an AmeriCorps program, led the youth through several workdays, local conservation organizations assisted with identification of the natural and cultural features, and design consultants shared their knowledge of trail layout, materials, bridge building, and sign placement. Dallas Parks Board member Michael King presented each youth who worked on the trail with a certificate of appreciation from the city. Staff from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) co-sponsored a design workshop on the White Rock Creek Greenway. The workshop results recommended the Sycamore Trail, which at present is the only public access to the creek's lower reach. RTCA helped local partners obtain National Park Foundation/Fannie Mae Foundation funding from a program benefiting low-income neighborhoods through capacity-building. RTCA also helped bring trail and environmental experts to participate with the recreation center's youth trail program. For more information, please contact Kathryn Nichols, Community Planner, at Kathryn_Nichols@nps.gov or 512-916-5161.



RTCA's Kathryn Nichols and youth help cut the ribbon at Sycamore-Dixon Trail Dedication.
Photo courtesy Annie Melton

Land preserved Along Maurice Wild and Scenic River

The Nature Conservancy Purchase Caps Fifteen Year Effort



The Maurice Wild and Scenic River.
Photo courtesy The Nature Conservancy.

Millville, NJ (January 2004) The Nature Conservancy (TNC), with recommendations from the partnership committee, purchased 370 acres of riverside land, known locally as the "Maurice River Bluffs," along the federally designated Maurice Wild and Scenic River. The Maurice River is one of seven National Park Service (NPS) Wild and Scenic rivers managed in partnership with state, county and local governments. The acquisition effort, facilitated by the state's Green Acres Program, took 15 years of planning and negotiation by a planning task force comprised of TNC, Millville, non-profits, Cumberland County, and NPS officials. This task force is also developing recreation management alternatives for the pristine, upland corridor that stretches over three miles along the western banks of the river. The NPS is assisting the TNC through a cooperative agreement in

surveying the property's Threatened and Endangered species. For more information, please contact Paul Kenney, National Rivers Program, at paul_kenney@nps.gov or 215-597-5823.

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Columbus' Beatty Recreation Center Gets a Second Chance

New renovations improve this popular site

Columbus, OH (September 25, 2004) - The National Park Service (NPS), through the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program, provided \$1.5 million spread over fiscal years 2001 and 2002 for the rehabilitation of the Beatty Recreation Center. Hopewell Culture National Historical Park Superintendent, Dean K. Alexander, represented the NPS and congratulated the city on behalf of the Director and Regional Director at the rededication ceremony. Other congratulatory speakers included U.S. Representative Patrick J. Tiberi, Mayor Michael B. Coleman, and many prominent local officials. The extensive renovation project was completed in two phases. Phase I focused on renovating the center's infrastructure and phase II targeted the center's gymnasium, boxing, game and weight rooms, kitchen, storage area, auditorium, courtyard and computer room. Exterior improvements consisted of adding an accessible entrance adjacent to the renovated, handicapped accessible parking lot, new windows and doors, landscaping, and period wrought iron fencing. Both community and city officials are pleased with the results for this high-use facility. For more information, please contact Marilyn Gillen, Outdoor Recreation Planner at marilyn_gillen@nps.gov or 402-661-1550.



Mayor Michael B. Coleman joins youth at the Beatty Recreation Center celebration.
Photo courtesy Maureen Lorenz.

Surplus River Access Site Becomes County Waterfront Park

County obtains permanent access to Ohio River



River front property transferred through the NPS Federal Lands to Parks Program.
Photo Courtesy Bill Huie.

Marion, KY (August 19, 2004) – The National Park Service's Federal Lands to Parks program transferred the Old Lock and Dam 50 Access Site to Crittenden County, Kentucky, at no cost, to expand its riverfront park. This 26.79-acre property provides a boat launching ramp, open space, and a scenic vista of the Ohio River. Formerly acquired and developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of the Old Lock and Dam 50, the parcel was developed for boating access after the dam was removed. In 1988, 38 adjacent acres were conveyed under the Federal Lands to Parks Program to Crittenden County for their first riverfront park parcel. Crittenden County will operate both parcels as their riverfront park

which will be further developed with trails, picnic tables and camping sites. Valued at \$475,000, the property is significant because it provides the only boating access site in Crittenden County. The transfer was negotiated by NPS Federal Lands to Parks staff. For more information, please contact Bill Huie, Federal Lands to Parks Program Manager, Atlanta, GA, at bill_huie@nps.gov or 404-562-3175.

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Rathrum Mountain Protected From Development

Grass-roots effort prevents building on the City of Rathdrum's geographic landmark

Rathdrum, ID (Fall 2004) - Rathdrum's Gem Community Advisory Committee (GEM) worked with City Council members to place development restrictions on 570 acres owned by the city. The parcel's protection is the culmination of a two year community-based planning effort. GEM contacted the National Parks Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) to assist them in a planning effort to determine what the City should do with its land on Rathdrum Mountain. Tempers flared at early open houses as conservationists, landowners, loggers, and pro-trails community members clashed over how the mountain should be protected and utilized. RTCA worked with GEM to develop a collaborative planning process weighted heavily with public outreach and community participation. Interested Rathdrum citizens, stakeholders, and students from the North Idaho College assisted with the parcel inventory, gathered GPS data for existing and potential routes, and developed potential alternatives for the parcel. Students from University of Idaho's Landscape Architecture department provided renderings and drawings. After two years of intensive efforts, a widely supported three-phased plan that begins with protecting the parcel from development was developed and adopted by Rathdrum's City Council. Plan highlights include sustainable forestry, restoration projects, multiple-use trails, and interpretive displays on the Rathdrum Aquifer (a feature of the Ice Age Floods Trail). For more information contact Dan Miller, Community Planner, RTCA, Seattle, WA, at dan_miller@nps.gov or 206-220-4122.



One of several illustrations depicting potential uses for Rathdrum Mountain. Illustration courtesy Thomas Guyer, University of Idaho Landscape Architecture department.

Neighbors Restore Ryan Lake Shoreline

First phase of long-range open space development plan completed successfully

Minneapolis, MN (September 18, 2004) – More than 44 volunteers completed the first shoreline restoration project at North Minneapolis' Ryan Lake. Neighborhood residents, agency staff, and other

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volunteers mulched, installed erosion control fabric, and planted 3500 native wildflowers and grasses in order to improve water quality, create better wildlife habitat, control erosion, and enhance aesthetics of this impaired water body. The planting activity (photo on left, courtesy Karen Swenson) is part of a long-range, neighborhood-developed vision for open space improvement around Ryan Lake which

began with a trash cleanup last spring. This conservation project was assisted by \$3600 in NPS Challenge Cost Share funds, along with local funds, donated supplies, and labor. Partners in the Ryan Lake shoreline restoration and/or related open space development activities include: Victory Neighborhood Association, Groundwork Minneapolis, Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission, Camden Garden Club, City of Minneapolis (Public Works and Environmental Management), Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Hennepin County Soil and Water Conservation District, Loring Elementary School, Ryan Lake Association, University of Minnesota Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, University of Minnesota cooperative Extension Service Master Gardener Program, Minnesota Department of National Resources, and Federal Highway Administration. For additional information, please contact Holly Larson, Outdoor Recreation Planner, NPS/RTCA, Minnesota Field Office, at holly_larson@nps.gov or call 651-290-3003.

Willard Park Rededication Story

Indianapolis, IN (August 12, 2004) – Indianapolis celebrated the rededication of Willard Park after two years of renovation work. The historical park's transformation was made possible in large part by a \$500,000 grant from the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program to Indy Parks and Recreation. The local match requirement was exceeded thanks to the Indianapolis Parks Foundation (IPF), which secured more than \$238,000. Indy Parks and Recreation also provided matching funds from its capital improvement budget. "We have witnessed the effect that the financial support of UPARR and many additional individuals, foundations, and corporations has had on this community. It's a clear example of how, with the right support, parks can truly become the centerpiece of a community," said IPF Executive Director Cindy Porteous. She was joined at the rededication ceremony by local dignitaries and Dale Phillips, Superintendent of George Rogers Clark National Historic Park representing the National Park Service and the Midwest Region's Partnerships/Grants staff. Improvements included renovations to the pool, bathhouse, concession and vending building, the basketball court and parking lot, and the addition of a spray pool, recreation trail, family activity area, and sport and playfields. For more information, please contact Marilyn Gillen, Outdoor Recreation Planner at marilyn_gillen@nps.gov or 402-661-1550.



Children enjoying the new renovations to Willard Park.
Photo courtesy Marilyn Gillen.

Conservation Successes informs Department of Interior staff, conservation partners, and friends about the program successes of the National Center for Recreation and Conservation. For more details, please contact the staff person involved with each project.

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